REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-15 and 18-24 have been amended. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants bring to attention that Examiner has not acknowledged receipt of the certified copy of German priority document 100 00 826.7. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of all certified copies of priority documents in the next office communication.

Claim Objection

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9-15, 19-24 have been objected to because of the British spelling "centre" instead of the American spelling "center". Claims 1-15 and 18-24 have been editorially amended to correct all instances of British spelling and typographical mistakes. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding objection to the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Norris et al.

Claims 1-10 and 12-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Norris et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,805,587; hereinafter "Norris"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants' claimed invention relates to a process for handling incoming telephone calls for a subscriber line of a telecommunications network while an online data-network session is blocking the subscriber line. Current access data is sent from an access device to a terminal. The terminal signals the current access data to a service computer, and a switching center signals to the service computer the fact that an incoming call destined for the subscriber line is waiting at the switching center. The service computer supplies at least one predetermined service for the purpose of processing the incoming call.

Turning to the cited art, Norris describes a call notification feature for alerting a subscriber who is connected to the Internet. When the subscriber's telephone station set is connected to the Internet, an alert of a waiting call is sent via the Internet connection. The call that is waiting may be forwarded via the Public Switched Network to a services platform which establishes a connection to the subscriber using the Internet. After the platform notifies the subscriber of the waiting call, the call is then forwarded to the subscriber via the Internet without interrupting the subscriber's Internet connection, (see, e.g., Abstract).

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Norris of "the terminal signaling the current access data to a service computer of the telecommunications network," as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants' current access data is sent from the access device to the terminal. Norris only mentions an Internet Access Service (IAS) (200) which permits access to the Internet (300) if a caller/subscriber entered password matches that which is stored in a data record (column 2, lines 54-57). Norris does not teach or suggest the terminal DT1 signaling current access data to the IAS (200), nor is current access data sent from the Internet

(300) to DT1. Norris only supplies IAS (200) with a password entered at DT1, upon which access to the Internet (300) is granted when a password match is determined. There is no mention of current access data being signaled and sent in the manner as recited in Applicants' claim, nor does Norris suggest or render these features obvious. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 1 is patentable over Norris. Claims 2-9 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claim 1, which, as established above, distinguishes over Norris. Therefore, claims 2-9 are distinguished over Norris for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 10, a service computer is recited as comprising "a receiver configured in such a way that the service computer can receive access data sent from the terminal which the terminal has received from an access device of an online data network in the course of the setting-up of a connection to the online data network via the subscriber line." As discussed above, Norris does not teach or suggest that the IAS (200) receives access data sent from DT1 which has been received from the Internet (300). At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 10 is patentable over Norris. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 12, a terminal is recited as comprising "a receiver configured in such a way that the terminal can receive current access data sent from an access device of an online data

network which the access device sends to the terminal ..., and a transmitter configured in such a way that the terminal can send the current access data to a service computer of the telecommunications network." As discussed above, Norris does not teach or suggest that the IAS (200) receives access data sent from DT1 which has been received from the Internet (300). At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 12 is patentable over Norris. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 13, a terminal is recited as comprising a receiver wherein "the service computer sends off to the terminal with the aid of access data which the service computer has obtained from the terminal after a connection from the terminal to the online data network has been set up via the subscriber line." As discussed above, Norris does not teach or suggest that the IAS (200) receives access data sent from DT1 which has been received from the Internet (300). At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 13 is patentable over Norris. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 14, an access-data-sending program module is recited as comprising a receiving code which "receiv[es] from an access device of an online data network current access data which the access device sends to the terminal in the course of the setting-up of a connection to the online data network via the subscriber line." As discussed above, Norris does not teach or suggest that the IAS (200) receives access data sent from DT1 which has been received from the Internet (300). At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by

Applicants' claim 14 is patentable over Norris. Claim 16 is a dependent claim including all of the elements of independent claim 14, which, as established above, distinguishes over Norris. Therefore, claim 16 is distinguished over Norris for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for its additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 15, a program module is defined as comprising a receiving code which receives "instructions from a service computer which the service computer sends off to the terminal ... with the aid of access data which the service computer has received from the terminal after a connection from the terminal to the online data network has been set up via the subscriber line." As discussed above, Norris does not teach or suggest that the IAS (200) receives access data sent from DT1 which has been received from the Internet (300). At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 15 is patentable over Norris. Claim 17 is a dependent claim including all of the elements of independent claim 15, which, as established above, distinguishes over Norris. Therefore, claim 17 is distinguished over Norris for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for its additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Norris et al. in view of Bedingfield et al.

Claims 18-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Norris in view of Bedingfield et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,757,274; "Bedingfield"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Norris fails to teach or suggest a terminal signaling current access data to a service computer of the telecommunications network, the current access data having been sent to the terminal from an access device.

Bedingfield does not remedy the deficiencies of Norris. Bedingfield discloses an internet call notification of an incoming telephone call to a user who is browsing the internet (column 2, lines 23-27). However, there is also no mention in Bedingfield of a terminal signaling current access data to a service computer of the telecommunications network, the current access data having been sent to the terminal from an access device. Applicants' claims 18-24 are dependent claims, and thus include all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 10-15, respectively. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claims 18-24 are patentable over Norris in view of Bedingfield. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Norris et al.

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Norris. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

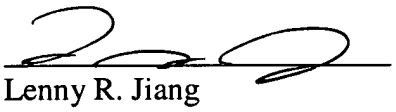
Applicants' claimed invention relates to a "switching center for handling incoming telephone calls for a subscriber line of a telecommunications network while an online data-network session of a terminal is blocking the subscriber line." The switching center comprises a receiver, a recognition apparatus, and a transmitter. A "terminal signals access data to a service computer to aid in providing services for handling incoming calls for the blocked subscriber line, [the] access data being sent from an access device to the terminal."

Turning to the cited art, Norris describes a call notification feature for alerting a subscriber who is connected to the Internet, as described above. However, Norris does not teach or suggest that "the terminal signals access data to the service computer to aid in providing services for handling incoming calls for the blocked subscriber line, said access data being sent from an access device to the terminal," as recited in Applicants' amended claim 11. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 11 is patentable over Norris. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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